

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Ward Says AG Blumenthal Should Recuse Himself From Finders' Fees Investigation of Fellow Democrat**



HARTFORD – House Republican Leader Rep. Robert M. Ward of North Branford today said that Attorney General Richard Blumenthal should recuse himself from the on-going investigation of insurance industry finders' fees because it has been disclosed that the target of the probe is a top Democratic fundraising operative.

Ward noted that when Blumenthal issued a press release last month announcing that the Attorney General's office had recovered \$870,000 in fees and interest from Cigna in the case involving former employee Carl Feen, he referred to Feen as an insurance broker. It was disclosed this week by the Hartford Courant that Feen has also served as a chairman of the state Democratic party's finance committee and has raised and contributed money to virtually all high level Democratic candidates in Connecticut and nationally.

"I believe that based on these recent disclosures, Attorney General Blumenthal should step aside and appoint outside counsel in this continuing investigation. More questions have been raised rather than answered with regard to the finders' fees issues and Carl Feen," Ward said. "I'm troubled by the fact that the Attorney General didn't disclose Mr. Feen's political activities and contributions to fellow Democrats including himself."

Two previous newspaper stories referred to Feen as a former Cigna employee and insurance agent but neither mentioned that Feen had maintained close ties with the Clinton administration and was on a first-name basis with former Vice President Al Gore.

Feen gave at least \$250 to Blumenthal in one election cycle. It was the comptroller's office that contracted with Cigna to provide dental care for at least 11,000 state employees beginning in 1989. Feen, as agent of record, demanded and received more than \$470,000 in finders' fees for bringing the account to Cigna although the company and Wyman claimed they knew nothing about the case.

"The Attorney General apparently is still looking into this matter but I believe the public trust is better served by having an independent investigator involved," Ward added.